

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/834,633

Examiner

Nicholas D. Rosen

Applicant(s)

TAKECHI, MINEKI

Art Unit

3625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/22/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 4-8.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 16 April 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1 and 4-8 have been examined.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with attorney John Garvey on January 25, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows: In the first line of claim 7, "An information ranking method" is amended to read: "**A computer-implemented information ranking method**".

At the end of claim 7, the period after "page" is replaced by a semicolon, and followed by: "**Wherein at least one of said analyzing, said calculating, and said preparing is carried out by a computer**".

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 and 4-6 allowed.

Claim 7 is allowed.

Claim 8 is allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the closest prior art of record, Avrunin et al. (U.S. Patent 6,523,008), discloses an information analysis system comprising: information analyzing means for analyzing contents-information concerning an investigation target page on the Internet (column 4, lines 18-42; column 5, lines 22-27; column 6, line 25, through column 7, line 36; column 19, line 46, through column 20, line 6); and judging the factuality and reliability of said investigation target page based on the analysis result of said information analyzing means (column 4, lines 18-42; column 5, lines 22-27; column 6, line 25, through column 7, line 36; column 19, line 46, through column 20, line 6). Avrunin does not expressly disclose ranked value calculating means for calculating a ranked value indicating the factuality and reliability of said investigation target page, except in the sense that by making a decision, Avrunin's system ranks a target page as passing or failing, but Warris (U.S. Patent 6,604,131) teaches ranking Internet pages in more detail (column 2, lines 6-17; column 4, line 18, through column 5, line 5). However, neither Avrunin nor Warris discloses guarantee data preparing means for preparing ranking guarantee data of said investigation target page, based on the ranked value calculated by ranked value calculating means, or guarantee data sending means for sending the ranking guarantee data to the user who has designated the investigation target page. It is known in general to charge for services performed, and in particular for guarantees (Risen, Jr., et al. (U.S. Patent 6,018,714), discloses charging for a warrantee, in another context), but that is held to be insufficient to make the claimed limitations obvious, given the lack of teaching of ranking guarantee data in Avrunin, Warris, or other analogous art pertaining

to ranking or analyzing Internet pages. Google and other search engines, rank Web pages by presumed relevance, but not by factuality and reliability, and without any guarantees.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Chakrabarti et al. (U.S. Patent 6,356,899) disclose a method for interactively creating an information database including preferred elements, such as preferred-authority Web pages. Arthurs (U.S. Patent 6,591,261) discloses a network search engine and method of determining search results in accordance with search criteria and/or associated sites. Schuetze et al. (U.S. Patent 6,751,612) disclose user query generated search results that rank servers. Muret et al. (U.S. Patent 6,792,458) disclose a system and method for monitoring and analyzing Internet traffic.

Siegel (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0046203) discloses a method and apparatus for providing ratings of Web sites over the Internet.

The anonymous article, "Inktomi Shares Tumble as Yahoo! Bowls a Google," discloses Google's search service, which ranks Web pages by relevance.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nicholas D. Rosen whose telephone number is 703-305-0753. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM, M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wynn Coggins can be reached on 703-308-1344. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Non-official/draft applications can be faxed to the examiner at 703-746-5574.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Nicholas D. Rosen
NICHOLAS D. ROSEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

January 25, 2005